

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT IN GEORGIA

The Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement assessed natural and cultural resources and socioeconomic conditions in Georgia related to construction of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN). Specific resources assessed include:

Infrastructure

Roadways, rail, airports, ports and harbors, public safety services, and utilities.

Soils and Geology

Geologic and soil characteristics across 14 soil suborders; geologic properties of minerals and paleontological resources; as well as geologic hazards such as seismic activity, landslides, and land subsidence.

Water Resources

Inland surface water, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, estuaries and coastal waters, freshwater, floodplains, and groundwater characteristics.

Wetlands

More than 5,320,000 acres of wetlands providing ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic benefits.

Biological Resources

Terrestrial vegetation, wildlife, fisheries and aquatic habitats, and threatened and endangered species, including Georgia's 69 federally-listed species of 7 mammals, 5 reptiles, 4 birds, 9 fish, 2 amphibians, 15 invertebrates, and 27 plants.

Land Use, Airspace, and Recreation

Including forest and woodland, which covers approximately 58% of the state, as well as agricultural land covering 19%, and developed land at 9%.

Visual Resources

Includes forests, trails, natural areas, historic sites, parks, recreational areas, and wildlife refuges.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Economic activity focused on educational services, and health care and social assistance; retail trade; and professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services; housing costs and characteristics; as well as the presence of potential environmental justice populations across the state.

Cultural Resources

There are no federally recognized tribes; 2,105 resources are included in the National Register of Historic Places, as well other properties and resources of cultural importance to the state.

Air Quality and Noise

Baseline noise conditions and air quality regulatory status.

Climate Change

Contribution to climate change via greenhouse gas emissions, as well as consideration of likely climate change scenarios.

Human Health and Safety

Issues relevant to Georgia, including worker and community health concerns related to environmental contamination.

